

ON THE HORIZON

“POLICY MAKERS ARE BEGINNING TO DELVE MORE DEEPLY INTO THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT AND INSTABILITY IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THIS COMPLEX EQUATION.”

—**SHERRI W. GOODMAN, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**
(ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY)

Even as the DERP matures and brings an increasing number of sites to the final milestones of the program, new issues and events continue to emerge. In response, DoD must issue policies and guidance, create prioritization criteria, reallocate resources, and develop management and oversight systems within the framework of the restoration program. In some cases, these issues and events may be substantial enough to eventually reshape the DERP. This section looks to that horizon, briefly describing a few of the issues confronting DoD on the road to Site Closeout.

RANGE RULE

Unexploded ordnance is commanding increased attention from DoD, which plans to expand its efforts to clean up this material. DoD addresses the problem of UXO in its proposed Range Rule, which was published in the *Federal Register* on September 26, 1997. The proposed rule addresses explosives safety, human health, and environmental concerns related to ordnance on closed, transferring, and transferred (CTT) ranges. Efforts to survey, investigate, and remediate UXO on CTT ranges are eligible for ER funding; similar efforts on active ranges are currently ineligible for such funding.

DoD recognizes the need to build a framework for a UXO program and has initiated a process to more fully integrate UXO requirements into the POM. Efforts are under way to identify requirements, review policy, and fill data gaps to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the need for a UXO program. Ongoing DoD UXO-related efforts include developing draft instructions for CTT and active ranges, developing draft Defense Planning Guidance goals, and developing draft POM preparation instructions. In addition, the Services are identifying UXO requirements in the POM and are participating in integrated process teams to support information gaps in areas such as contracting and training qualifications.



Proposed Range Rule
http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html (Query Page)

EXPIRATION OF BRAC FUNDING

The BRAC implementation period is scheduled to end on July 13, 2001. It is not certain at this time whether Congress will provide additional BRAC environmental appropriations after FY01. An estimated \$2.4 billion additional investment is required for the BRAC program beyond FY01. After FY01, the Components will be responsible for programming and for budgeting funds for these requirements from other accounts unless Congress extends the BRAC account.

The Department of Defense has proposed the extension of the BRAC account as part of its legislative proposal for two additional rounds of BRAC—one in FY01 and another in FY05. This proposal would extend the BRAC account for 6 years beyond the date of the second round, postponing expiration of the BRAC account until the end of FY11.



Cleanup Program in Action

Dolly Sods Wilderness Area

Hikers, hunters, and campers have long known the Dolly Sods Wilderness area of the Monongahela National Forest for its peaceful plains and sweeping vistas. The 10,000-acre area has one of the highest use rates of any wilderness site in the eastern United States. But long before nature lovers discovered the area, Dolly Sods was well known to the U.S. Army. During World War II, the Army conducted training exercises there on what was then known as the West Virginia Maneuvers Area.

The Army's training exercises involved use of mortar and artillery fire, armor-piercing bullets, and high explosives—materials defined by the military as ordnance. Not all of the ordnance fired during training exploded. Such unexploded ordnance can remain buried for decades without posing a threat to people or the environment. But if unearthed, unexploded ordnance can be quite dangerous.

The Army cleared the training area after World War II, but at least 21 pieces of unexploded ordnance have been discovered at Dolly Sods in recent years. One person has been severely injured. In response to this potential threat, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began an extensive search for unexploded ordnance at Dolly Sods during 1997. The \$1.2 million project covers 21 miles of trails and 8.5 acres of camp sites. To date, workers have unearthed 14 live mortar rounds and have made the area safe. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ordnance experts plan to continue working on the project, using the most advanced technology, until the project is completed next summer.